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II. DEPARTMENT OF PHILANTHROPY, CHARITIES AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

The Boston Children Friends' Society.—A most interesting report on the care and placing of dependent children has just been published by the Boston Children's Friend Society. The report was made on the seventy-first anniversary of this society and it records 108 children in homes, free homes having been provided for 29. Up to a few years ago the society had a large house in Boston in which it kept children that were placed under its care, but through the influence of Mr. Sherman C. Kingsley, who was the secretary of the society up to a year ago, the management abandoned the institution and placed all the children in families, paying \$2 a week board for those under 12 years of age. The plan has been eminently successful, and the most prejudiced against the change have become convinced that it is the proper way to take care of children who have neither parents nor guardians able to do so. Parents and friends are required to pay for the maintenance of children if able, and are allowed to visit them constantly. Brothers and sisters are always kept together, and the management uses all its influence in an effort to reunite families if conditions can be made suitable. Children are only placed for adoption when there is no hope of re-establishing the family.

For the older boys and girls homes are found where they can earn their way while attending school, or wages are paid if they do not go to school. The society is the oldest organization in Boston caring for both boys and girls. It interests itself in needy and exposed children, and any one knowing of such a case of distress may refer it to the society, and it will receive prompt attention. The society receives no public aid and is supported by voluntary contributions. Its investigations are thorough and the standard of its homes very high. The moral character of every member of the family where a child is placed must be known. Where the child will sleep, eat and play is carefully investigated. Generally five out of every ten applications for children are rejected. Great care is taken in ascertaining the physical condition of the child when it is first brought under the supervision of the society. If there is any evidence of unsoundness, arrangements are made for the special oversight of the child by a doctor, dentist or oculist. During the past year the society returned 50 children to relatives, and 320 were brought to the society for help. It costs from \$100 to \$150 a year for the support of each child.

When the society closed the door of its institution and put all its children into family homes, under strict supervision, it was severely criticised by other organizations, but the plan has proven so successful and so beneficial to the children that other organizations and societies in Boston and Massachusetts are planning to place their children in family homes also. Institution life for

dependent children is doomed in Massachusetts, and no doubt the plan outlined above will become universal throughout the United States before many years have passed. The New Jersey State Board of Children's Guardians does its work in this way under a State law, and, like the Boston society, finds no trouble in securing high-class homes for its children.

The Associated Charities of Boston has just published its twenty-fifth annual report, and, in commenting upon the completion of a quarter of a century of work, reviews briefly the progress that has been made.

The record of the quarter century is one of which any society might well be proud. The crucial test of the record is to be found, not in the treasurer's balance sheet nor in the general secretary's tables of families dealt with, but in the general condition of the great city with regard to poverty and pauperism.

Perhaps the most significant single bit of evidence is to be found in the annual report of the Board of Overseers of the Poor for the year ending January 31, 1904. Figures there published show that while in the last twenty years the population of Boston has increased from 379,129 to 607,697, an increase of 228,568 persons, the number of families aided, so far from increasing in anything like the same proportion, has diminished from 4,075 to 2,346—a decrease of 1,729 families. Attention is also called by the overseers to the fact that in the same time the amount of aid per family has risen from \$16.93 in 1883 to \$29.92 in 1903.

The report states that, "while we have learned to rely more and more upon the fundamental correctness of our principles, we have learned to recognize more and more the value of and, indeed, the indispensable need of thoroughly trained workers. Our society was one of the first to introduce and develop the system of training agents systematically under competent instructors and under varying conditions of work before putting them in charge of district offices. Recently a beginning has been made in the instruction of friendly visitors. It is not expected that any large proportion of the visitors will ever take a course of systematic instruction, but it is hoped that the practical training of volunteers may become a more prominent part of our work, so that each district will contain some thoroughly trained volunteers who will undertake, with more prospect of success, the especially difficult cases, of which every conference has its due share. The training of agents adds appreciably to the expense of operating the society, but the directors believe that it adds vastly more to the efficiency of its work."

The particular feature of the Boston society which is the envy of other similar organizations is its success in securing a training for its volunteer visitors. The record of the year's work is summarized as follows:—

Total number of friendly visitors within the year 1,055

DISTRICT WORK.

Families in the care of volunteer visitors of the society..... 1,397

Families cared for by visitors of other agencies co-operating with the society 478

Other families dealt with or worked for 2,781

CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

New families registered	3,538
Old families registered	6,190

The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of California.—*The Thirty-first Annual Report.* The object of this charity is to rescue homeless, neglected or abused children of California. It also looks after juvenile offenders who are in danger of being imprisoned. It provides for such cases until suitable homes or employment and oversight are found for them. The society is supported by voluntary contributions, and is absolutely nonsectarian.

The society has been in the habit of giving the boys a six weeks' outing every summer, which has greatly benefited their physical and moral condition. The superintendent, Mr. Herbert W. Lewis, says it is no light undertaking to have seventy-five boys, gathered in from the streets of the city, in a camp where the intention is to have a good time and still keep the camp above criticism by its neighbors. The excellent reputation earned by the boys at Guerneville, where they camped last year, is evidence of their good conduct. The plan of sending out boys in relays has worked well, and a party of twenty-four boys, under the management of Mr. Westington, was sent to a ranch near the town of Sebastopol, to take the places of an equal number of boys of the South Park Settlement Association, who had been employed as berry pickers, and who returned to San Francisco at that time to be ready for the opening of the public schools. The party occupied the camp which had been vacated by the others and completed the work left by them. They also took a large contract on their own account and completed it satisfactorily. They assisted in gathering and curing the prunes and peaches on the ranch, then moved a few miles to another ranch, where they picked hops alongside a multitude of other pickers, and did as good work and cleared as much money as did any other similar party. They returned early in September, having earned \$438.

In the meantime the camp at Guerneville had been broken up and the party there had returned to San Francisco early in August. From among these boys another party of twenty-nine had been selected to go to the Santa Clara Valley to pick prunes, in the neighborhood where the first effort with a picking party had resulted so favorably the year before. The boys did excellent work and were in great demand. They picked over 200 tons of prunes and brought back over \$500 in money as proceeds of their work.

Every effort was made to cut down the expenses of both these working expeditions to the smallest possible number of cents per day per child. Each expedition was under the management of a single employee of the society. Neither had a sufficient equipment. In both, the boys did their own cooking, with the assistance of the man in charge. These things served to enlarge the net returns, but it was a decidedly strenuous time for both the boys and the men who had them in charge. Every one connected with both parties returned in perfect health, and the possibility of making such expeditions entirely successful on a large scale was demonstrated. Plans for the present summer and autumn will embrace arrangements for placing not less than ninety boys at

work in well-equipped camps provided with skillful overseers and each attended by a cook and a matron.

A plan was adopted of deducting from the earnings of each boy a sum per day sufficient in the aggregate to cover the cost of the incidental expenses of the expedition and the raw material of the food consumed. The work is all done by the piece (fruit picked by the box) and an accurate account kept of each boy's earnings, and this amount, less a deduction for expenses, as noted above, is paid to him upon his discharge from the institution, or is expended for his benefit, or paid to his legal guardian. Fifty-four per cent. of the gross earnings of the boys were paid to them and 46 per cent. absorbed in expenses, which did not include the salaries of the men in charge, these being borne by the society.

In addition to these annual summer outings the boys had a special marching permit, good in all parts of Golden Gate Park, had made free use of the playground and had, through the courtesy of the Park Commission, a special free, all-day use of everything in the children's quarter, together with lunch in the park dining-room.

The boys are systematically drilled in company formations and movements, which were adopted two years ago, and have proven well adapted to the purpose, being a combination of those used in the United States Infantry and the Marine Corps. They have been of great assistance in cultivating habits of attention and of prompt and exact obedience. They have also been very valuable in building up the physical condition of the boys.

The work in school has maintained a high grade of efficiency. The curriculum has been extended to include advanced arithmetic, United States history and physiology, thus furnishing additional facilities for the preparation of pupils for entering the high school. The work in all grades has been continuous, due to the longer terms in which boys are now retained, and therefore far more effective. The special needs of the neglected children have been met by individual attention by the teachers, and a number of those who have been out of school for from one to three years before their admission have made such progress as will soon render them able to take their places in classes in the public schools with boys of their own age.

At the beginning of the year there were fifty-two boys under commitments from the police courts of the city and county of San Francisco. For the maintenance and training of these the society receives the rate per month fixed by Section 1,388 of the Penal Code.

The year closes with sixty-three boys under commitment from the Superior Courts of four counties. The shortest term for which any of them has been placed in the institution is six months; a number are to remain until eighteen years of age, and others are with us for terms of from two to five years. These commitments give control of the child for the time specified, including the right to place out and to return to the institution any child who will probably be benefited by such action; and this right has been exercised, and committed boys have been sent to the homes of persons suitable and willing to receive them.

Mr. Lewis closes his admirable report with an appeal for support, as

follows: "Aiming to be supremely effective within its special sphere, the institution has many lines of activity which call for the expenditure of money, and it appeals for support, confident that investigation of its work will bring approval."

A Model Jail Under Salaried Management.—The Allegheny County jail, at Pittsburg, is one of the famous group of county buildings designed by Richardson, the great American architect. The jail shares the distinction with the two-and-a-half million dollar Frick office building, which adjoins it, of being thoroughly clean and sweet and well ventilated. The guests of the Pittsburg hotels might almost be envious of the superior sanitary attractions of the jail. Nominally it is under the control of the sheriff, who receives a salary of \$8,000 a year. Allegheny County has a population of about 1,000,000. The jail is actually administered by the warden, who is appointed by a prison board made up of the judges and the sheriff, and receives a salary of \$3,000 per annum. He has entire charge of hiring and discharging his deputies and prison help, subject only to the veto of the prison board. The bread and meat are contracted for by the prison board, but all other supplies are purchased by the warden, and none of the public officials have any speculative interest in the feeding of the prisoners. The average cost per day for the food for each prisoner last year was 5½ cents, and the average cost of maintenance for each prisoner per day, including salaries (\$25,681.67), water tax, natural gas and improvements, was 27.88 cents. The average number of prisoners per day was 366. The total number received during the year was 13,305, and the average number of days each prisoner served was 10.06.

The warden, Mr. E. Lewis, is a man of unusual intelligence and ability. He has made a study of the prison systems of the United States and has visited the principal prisons and jails for the purpose of acquiring information as to prison management. His report is a model of prison statistics, both as to expenditures and as to the age, nationality, offense, occupation and classification of the prisoners. His report may be summarized as follows:—

CHARGES.

Crimes of violence	1,185
Burglary, larceny, embezzlement, forgery, fraud	1,863
Drunkenness	3,196
Disorderly conduct	2,323
Suspicious persons	1,022
Trespass	1,059
Vagrancy	880
Indecency, disorderly house, etc.	525
Desertion, nonsupport, neglect, etc.	341
Illegal liquor selling	154
Surety of the peace	167
Gambling	105
Violating city ordinance	140
Incorrigibility	84
Malicious mischief	80

Misdemeanor	49
Witness	56
Various	76

Total 13,305

OCCUPATIONS.

Common laborers	7,100
Skilled laborers and mechanics	3,367
Drivers	672
Domestics	943
Miners	305
Merchants	100
Clerks, etc.	335
Peddlers	65
Schoolboys and girls	279
Professions	75
Various	64

Total 13,305

The average age per prisoner was 30½ years, and of the 13,305 incarcerated during the year 930 were under 18 years of age. The nativity table shows:

American	8,405	Polish	569
Austrian	702	English	330
Italian	596	Russian	297
German	581	Hungarian	130
Slavish	333	Scotch	111
Irish	887		

And the rest various nationalities.

The married prisoners were 4,744 and the single 8,561. Only 1,972 prisoners could not read and write. The female prisoners numbered 1,091 and the colored prisoners 1,918.

The sheriff conducted seven executions during the year.

The report of the medical officer is also very interesting. He refers to the epidemic of smallpox of last July, as follows:—

"We beg leave to revert to the vaccination clause of our last report, where we have a showing of 4,496, or over one-third of the prisoners received during the year, vaccinated because of want of evidence of protection. This work was continued until late in July of last year, long after the epidemic of smallpox had subsided, reaching in the aggregate the enormous sum of 6,948 (a monthly average of 414), 519 of which had never been vaccinated. Nine-tenths of this number were negroes, mostly from the South, showing beyond doubt the source of the cause which led up to the loathsome pestilence that terrorized and brought death among our people for two years and cost our city and county thousands of dollars. To prevent a recurrence

of this condition, compulsory vaccination should be vigorously enforced, especially in and about our city where the population is vacillating and unsteady."

British Conference on the Spread of Infectious Disease by Vagrants.

—A conference of the representatives of twenty-six of the councils of the counties of England and Wales, fifty-three county boroughs and twenty-six metropolitan boroughs of the Metropolitan Asylums Board was held in London last November to take steps to prevent the spread of infectious disease by tramps and vagrants. Each unit of government was represented by its medical officer of health, as well as by magistrates, mayors and other public officers. Mr. Henry Jephson, the chairman of the Public Health Committee, presided. Dr. Armstrong, of Newcastle, reported that taking districts attacked by smallpox, having a population of 20,000, half the cases were traceable to vagrants. Other delegates reported that in Lancaster, in 1901, five districts were certainly infected by tramps, two probably infected and one district had four separate infections. In Northumberland smallpox was introduced no less than twenty-four times by tramps in twelve out of twenty-nine sanitary divisions of the county. The same testimony was given from Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Warrackshire, Essex, Sussex and other counties.

No such gathering of the public health authorities of the country has hitherto been held. The discussion was earnest, pointed and intensely practical, and resulted in the adoption of the following resolutions:—

(1) That this conference of urban and sanitary authorities of England and Wales recognizes the increasing amount of habitual vagrancy as the cause of widespread and disastrous consequences to the public health, and is of opinion that much more effective measures than are at present adopted should be taken for preventing the spread of infectious disease by vagrants and for effectually dealing with this great and growing danger.

(2) That means should be provided for the detention and isolation of any vagrant found wandering in a public place, if reasonably suspected of being liable to convey infectious disease.

(3) Parliamentary powers should be sought for the compulsory vaccination and revaccination of all vagrants unable to produce proof of being sufficiently protected against smallpox on entering casual wards or common lodging houses, who, in the opinion of the sanitary authority, have been exposed to the infection of smallpox, and also that sanitary authorities should have power to grant such compensation as they think necessary to persons vaccinated or revaccinated at their request who may be prevented on that account from work.

(4) It should be an offense to withhold information or make false statements to the sanitary authority in carrying out its powers with respect to the disease.

(5) That the Local Government Board should obtain powers to secure weekly returns of all cases of infectious disease from all central authorities throughout the country and circulate the same.

(6) That it is desirable that in districts comprising groups of counties

and county boroughs, intelligence bureaux should be established, to which information should be sent from sanitary authorities and workhouses in the district of persons of the wandering class who have been exposed to the infection of smallpox; and that a printed copy of such information should be distributed from the bureau to every sanitary authority and board of guardians in the districts, and that the expense of maintaining the bureau should be met by contributions from the county councils and county boroughs forming the district.

(8) That the local authority should have increased control over common lodging houses, their keepers and occupants. Thus the local authority should have power:—

(b) To detain and isolate persons exposed to infection and to disinfect them and their clothes.

(c) To temporarily close a common lodging house in whole or in part, compensation to be given to the keeper of the house.

(g) That the local authority should have power to order the keeper of a common lodging house in which there has been infectious disease to refuse fresh admissions for such time as may be required by the authority.

(10) That the local authority should be empowered to require medical examination and disinfection of all persons entering casual wards.

(13) (a) That the time has arrived when the Local Government Board should promote legislation for the establishment of labor bureaux in the areas of every county council and every county borough council.

(b) That this conference is also of opinion that it is desirable that a national voluntary agency should be formed for assisting *bona fide* working-men while traveling through the country in search of work, and that such agency should be worked on the same lines as the Inter-Cantonal Union, of Switzerland, for the relief of poor travelers.

(14) That the unemployed traveling *bona fide* in search of work, not being habitual vagrants, should not be treated as vagrants, but be assisted to obtain employment.

(15) That the time has arrived when the Local Government Board should promote legislation for the establishment of labor colonies for the compulsory detention of habitual vagrants until they have acquired power to work and self restraint.

English Industrial Schools, 1870 to 1904.—A most valuable and interesting report on British industrial schools has just been published by the London County Council. The report was prepared under the direction of the late school board for London, and reviews the whole history of the establishment of the industrial school system in England and the conditions which led up to it. The movement began as far back as 1835, in a discussion of remedial measures for the prevention of juvenile crime. It is interesting to note that the path of progress was prepared by private philanthropy, and that the present system is the direct outcome of the famous ragged schools of which Mrs. Browning sang with such pathos. The instigators of the movement were Miss Mary Carpenter, who opened her ragged school in Bristol early in the 40's, and Lord Shaftesbury, who founded the ragged schools in

London. Gradually they worked up a public sentiment, which in 1851 culminated in a conference in Birmingham of forty-five of the most representative people in the United Kingdom to consider the condition and treatment of the "perishing and dangerous" classes of children, with a view of pressing the necessity for legislative enactments. At that period the number of juveniles of the dangerous class in London alone amounted to 30,000. There existed dens of thieves of all ages, and particularly training schools for thieves and pickpockets, such as are described by Dickens in "Oliver Twist."

In 1852 the Government appointed a Committee of Inquiry, which resulted in the passing of the Industrial Schools Act in 1857, since which time further legislation was secured, as needed, up to 1870, when the Elementary Education Act was passed, which conferred on school boards the powers the prison authorities already possessed, of contributing to the establishment and maintenance of industrial schools.

In June, 1871, two industrial schools officers commenced work, one on the north side of the Thames and one on the south side. The duties of these officers were to bring before magistrates cases suitable for industrial schools; to make inquiries into cases reported by the police; to attend the meetings of the committee for the purpose of giving information as to the cases submitted, and to furnish the magistrates at the police courts with particulars as to the children coming before them, and the suggestions of the committee as to their disposal.

The school board had to do an enormous amount of work, not only in providing the machinery for its own work, but also, and perhaps principally, in educating public opinion. The general attitude of the public was one of antagonism, and the feeling that the rights of parents were being interfered with. The attitude of the magistrates was also unsympathetic. However, the board gradually overcame all difficulties and is now able to report that out of a total of 64,000 cases which have been considered since the board was established about one-half have been sent to schools.

Of the immense number of industrial school children for whom the London school board is responsible, three-fourths are dealt with in different localities in rural districts. The gain is reciprocal, both to the London child and the school to which he is sent, for of all the constituents of a good school there is none more pungent than the London boy; he seems to quicken and to flavor every school he enters.

In the early days the industrial schools were looked upon as semi-penal institutions, and the inmates were treated like prisoners. Now, however, the industrial training is of a most efficient character, and the aim is to make the schools as interesting and attractive to the children as possible. One of the most interesting and most important features of industrial school work is the physical training and development of the children. Most of the schools have gymnasiums and swimming baths. In the girls' schools also physical training is provided. Another feature of industrial school life is the annual summer holiday at the seaside or in camp in the country.

The report deals fully with the children who have been placed out by the

board and who are kept under supervision until they reach the age of eighteen years, and states, among other things, that:—

"The employments into which children are placed upon leaving school vary considerably, according to the children's tastes and capacities, and to the locality of the school and the opportunities of the superintendents and managers.

"Girls usually enter domestic service, and this kind of disposal is generally considered to be the best for the majority of girls. They are well paid, well fed, well cared for and have good opportunities for advancement. Experts differ as to the desirableness of placing girls as general servants in middle-class families, or in more well-to-do families where many servants are kept. Many superintendents have strong objection to the latter course, and their reasons are certainly very cogent. Some, however, have successfully entered higher employments, as teachers, milliners, shop assistants, art students, art needleworkers.

"The range of occupations is much larger for boys, and the choice more varied. Among the most popular are the following: Army, farm service, emigration, domestic service, mercantile marine and trades of various kinds. A larger number enter the army than any other employment. They go as band boys, for which they have been prepared by the school bands. Nearly every boys' school has its band, and in many this is one of the most important 'industries.' The primary object, of course, is to prepare the boys for the army. Many of the bands discourse excellent music, and, considering the age of the performers and the fact that the best players are being constantly removed, the ability displayed is extraordinary. In many cases the schools obtain paid engagements at different public events, such as flower shows, etc., and in some cases near London the band has been regularly engaged by the London County Council to play in the parks. The bandmasters of regiments are glad to get such recruits, in consequence of their knowledge of music and because they have been accustomed to discipline. A number enter the Royal Navy, but the facilities for their joining this branch of the service are not equal to those of the army.

"Both employments are considered to be exceedingly good for industrial school boys, as they are given opportunities for advancement and are removed from the many pitfalls which beset boys in civil employment."

Many of the industrial school children are placed, through Dr. Barnardo, in Canada. Catholic children are placed through such societies as the Catholic Immigration Society.

Each boy is provided with an outfit costing £4.

In 1876 a truant school was established, and the report deals with this also very fully. Eleven thousand boys have been committed to the truant schools since their establishment, of whom 90 per cent. are said to have been "cured."

The board now maintains day industrial schools, for which parents have to contribute two shillings a week. Day industrial schools are not intended for the homeless, destitute child, nor for the child with an immoral or criminal home, nor for mere truants, but for a class between the truant school class

and the industrial school class. The children must have a fairly decent and respectable home, however poor. In these schools the half-time system of school work is adopted. The other portion of the day is devoted to industrial training.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Great Britain.—The inspector's report of these schools for 1903, which has just been published, states that the total number of schools under inspection is 222, viz., 45 reformatory schools, 139 industrial schools, 14 truant schools and 24 day industrial schools. The total number of juveniles under sentence of detention in reformatories and industrial schools at the close of 1903 was 27,873, namely, 22,954 boys, including 3,278 on license and 1,179 in truant schools, and 4,919 girls. This shows a decrease of 963 boys and of 299 girls as compared with the previous year. Preliminary imprisonment was abolished by the act of 1899, and consequently *all* juvenile offenders who go to reformatories do so without passing through the avenue of the prison, except as a matter of convenience, while a suitable school is being found. Furthermore the use of the prison even as a lodging-house has been decreased by the facilities afforded by the Youthful Offenders Act, 1901, for placing children and young persons in safe custody elsewhere.

The number of boys and girls in the various classes of schools and the expenditures therefor in 1903 were as follows:—

Day industrial schools	3,396	£ 39,269
Reformatory schools	5,622	133,002
Industrial schools, including truant schools, 22,253		457,790

The senior schools, or reformatories, are schools to which are sent juveniles, up to the age of sixteen, who have been convicted of an offense punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment, and such children must not, by the act of 1899, serve a previous term in prison. The junior or industrial schools, on the other hand, are designed, broadly speaking, for children up to the age of fourteen who may not actually have committed an offense, but whose circumstances are such that if left in their surroundings they are likely to join the delinquent population. Thus the senior schools are for actual, the junior schools for potential, delinquents, and the former contain children some three years older on an average than the latter. The two overlap to some extent, in that an actual delinquent, if under twelve and not previously convicted, may be sent to an industrial school.

In 1902 the number of children between the ages of twelve and sixteen convicted of indictable offenses was 6,243, and the number between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one was 8,584.

The following interesting table is given of the discharges from reformatory schools in 1903:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
To employment or service	561	127	688
Placed out through relatives	309	46	355
Emigrated	31	2	33

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Sent to sea	188	—	188
Enlisted	114	—	114
Discharged because of disease	15	7	22
Discharged as incorrigible	—	1	1
Died	16	3	19
Absconded, not recovered	18	—	18
Totals	1,252	186	1,438

In connection with the discharges for the three previous years the results show that about 80 per cent. were in regular employment, 4 per cent. in casual employment, 12 per cent. had been convicted and 4 per cent. were unknown. The juvenile commitments in 1902 were 1,081, and the adult offenders over sixteen years of age were 170,007. The average cost of maintenance of the reformatory schools, including rent and expenses on disposal and allowing the usual set-off for the profits of the labor of the inmates, was:—

For boys' reformatories in England, £21 17s., and in Scotland, £20 15s. 5d.

For girls' reformatories in England, £22 10s. 7d., and in Scotland, £24 11s. 7d.

For last year the figures were:—

For boys' reformatories in England, £21 15s. 6d., and in Scotland, £21 15s. 11d.

For girls' reformatories in England, £22 8s. 1d., and in Scotland, £22 5s. 11d.

The average cost per head for maintenance of truant schools, allowing for profit or loss of the industrial departments, was £25 7s. 7d. The total expenditure, including £1,071 8s. 1d. for building and capital account, was £30,873 7s. 5d., towards which the treasury contributed £7,512 4s. 10d. and the school boards and other local authorities, £24,331 9s. 6d.

The average length of detention was about thirteen weeks three days in cases of first admission, eighteen weeks three days in those of first readmission and twenty-four weeks four days in those of second readmission. The decline in the number of committals to truant schools which has marked the last three years continued, and at an accelerated rate, during 1903. Up to 1899 numbers had gone up year by year; it was in that year the maximum number of committals, viz., 2,321, was reached.

In the large industrial schools the cost per head was £11 17s. 3d., and for food, £3 5s. 11d.

The death rate for 1903 in the reformatory schools was 3.22 per thousand, and the industrial schools, 2.60 per thousand.

The report is a publication of 206 pages, 150 of which consist of statistical tables, which are most interesting and valuable.